

molding comprises a first surface defined by the first molding surface, an opposite second surface defined by the second molding surface, and an the-edge contour of the molding is determined substantially defined by the non-adjustable peripheral boundary of the energy-impinging region defined by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, and wherein the produced thereby producing a molding is substantially free from burrs or flashes.

80. (previously added) A process of claim 79, wherein said molding is an ophthalmic lens.

81. (previously added) A process of claim 80, wherein said ophthalmic lens is a contact lens.

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13-23, 27-33, 35-37, 40, 42-43, 47-53, 56, 59, 72-73, 75 and 79 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. After these amendments are entered, seventy seven (77) claims (Claims 1-5, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81) remain pending in this application through this Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection over claims 1-4, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Clark does not teach nor disclose anything about the present invention as currently claimed. Clark discloses that the polymerization of the starting material should proceed from the center of the mold outwards in order to avoid polymerizing that portion of the starting material in the mold which is adjacent to the edge of the mold cavity and, consequently, blocking off the reservoir from the center section of the mold cavity (Col. 7, lines 5-11). Clark discloses that a diaphragm which may be an opaque screen having a circular opening which is smaller than the diameter of the lens being cast can be used to mask/inhibit polymerization of the starting material in the edge region adjacent to the edge of the mold cavity and surrounding the central region, while polymerizing first the starting material in the center region. Once the starting material in the center region has been polymerized, the diaphragm can be removed to permit polymerization of the starting material adjacent to the edge of the mold. However, Clark does not disclose nor suggest anything about "spatially restricting impingement of the energy

to the mould cavity in an energy-impinging region covering the center of the mould cavity and having a non-adjustable peripheral boundary defined by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, thereby causing essentially only the starting crosslinkable material disposed in the energy-impinging region of the mould cavity to be crosslinked all together to form a moulding having a first surface, an opposite second surface and an edge, wherein the first surface is defined by the first mould surface, the second surface is defined by the second mould surface, and the edge of the moulding is defined by the non-adjustable peripheral boundary of the energy-impinging region defined by the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, and wherein the produced moulding is free from burrs or flashes". Furthermore, Clark does not disclose nor suggest anything about that the edge of the moulding can be defined by the non-adjustable peripheral boundary of an energy-impinging region defined by a spatial restriction of energy impingement. Clark teaches uses of a diaphragm which may be an opaque screen having a circular opening which is smaller than the diameter of the lens being cast. Such diaphragm with an opening smaller than the diameter of a lens being cast certainly will not be able to define the edge of the lens. Clark on col. 10, lines 46-49 also states:

In view of the foregoing, it will be appreciated that, as used in this specification, the term "lens" includes lenses which are cast in the final desired shape (except for edgeing) as well as semi-finished lens blanks. [Emphasis added]

Such statement clearly indicates that Clark does not appreciate that the edge of the moulding can be defined by the non-adjustable peripheral boundary of an energy-impinging region defined by a spatial restriction of energy impingement.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that, since Clark does not teach nor provide a motivation to arrive at the present invention as currently claimed, the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Clark and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

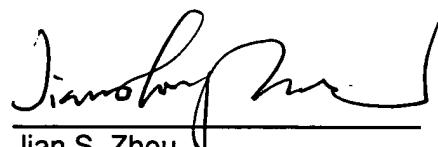
Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of European Patent Application 484,015. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, the primary reference (Clark) does not anticipate nor render the present invention obvious. The secondary reference (European Patent Application 484,015) does not fill the gap left by the primary reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the primary reference, alone or in combination with the secondary reference, does not teach or provide a motivation to arrive at the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Clark in view of European Patent Application 484,015 and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



Jian S. Zhou
Reg. No. 41,422
(678) 415-4691

Date: June 27, 2003

Novartis Corporation
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080